

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for processing signals from first and second microphones in a listening device which has a casing holding said first and second microphones, a signal processing unit which provides an output signal in correspondence with signals from said first and second microphones and suited to a user's hearing, and a receiver unit for delivering the output signal to the user, comprising the steps of (a) determining short term energy in the signals from each of the first and second microphones, and (b) changing the signal processing of the signal processing unit when a change in the difference over time in short term energy between the first and second microphone signals exceeds a threshold, wherein said threshold is selected so as to detect when said casing is being touched.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, comprising using time related change in difference in the short term energy content in the microphone signals to determine the rate of change in difference between the short term energy of the microphone signals.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, comprising changing a value in the signal processing unit whenever the rate of change in difference in the short term energy between the microphone signals reaches a pre-selected level in order to indicate that the casing is being touched.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, comprising temporarily interrupting a microphone matching procedure whenever it is determined that the casing is being touched.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, comprising temporarily attenuating the output signal to the user whenever it is determined that the casing is being touched.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, accomplishing a lasting change in the signal processing whenever it is determined that a non-accidental touch of the casing has occurred.

8-11. (Canceled)

12. (New) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:
calculating a respective square of the signal value for each of the signals from the first and second microphones;
determining a respective mean value for the calculated square values; and
wherein the step of determining short term energy comprises determining a difference between the determined mean values associated with the first and second microphones.